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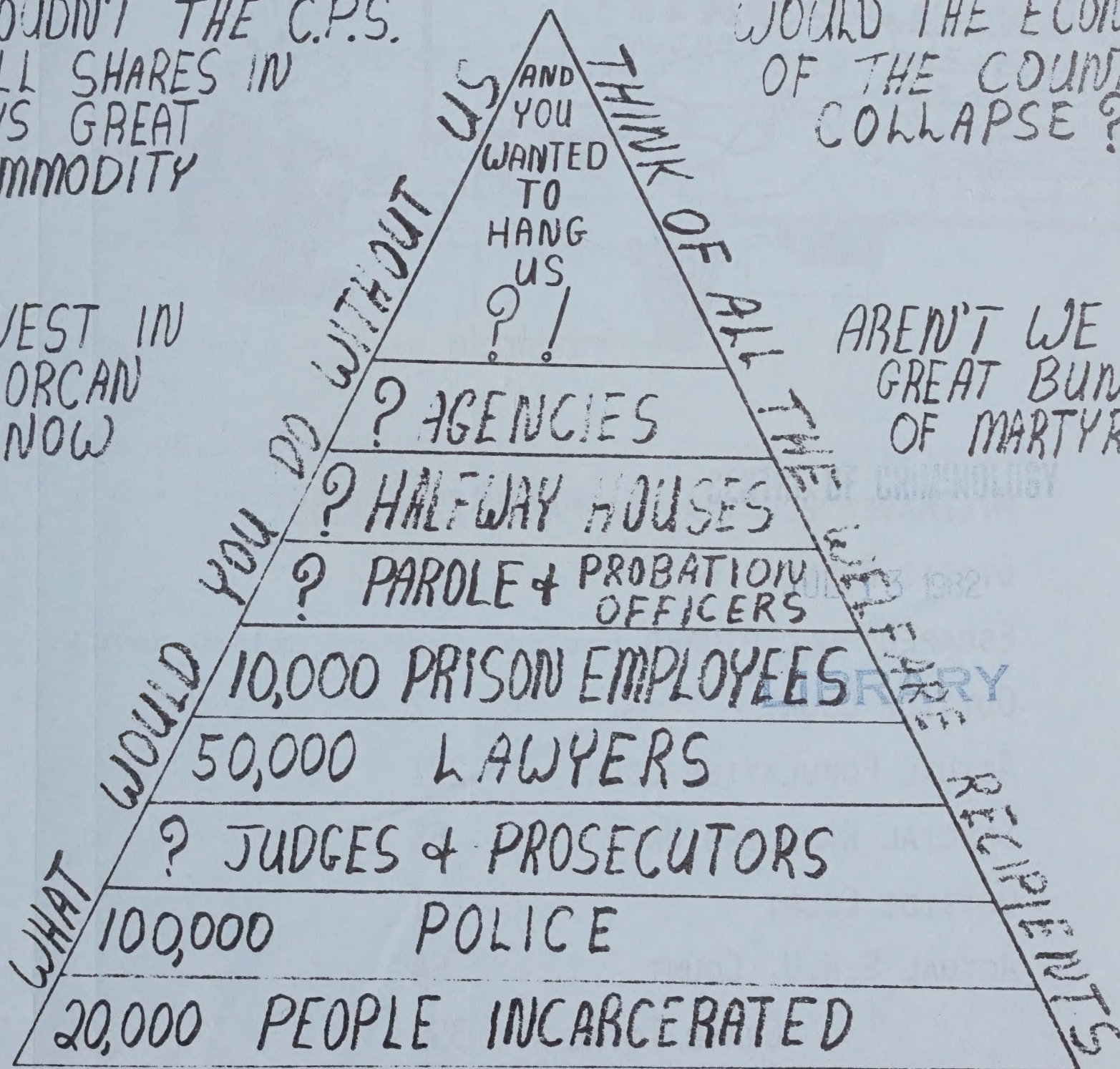
ODYSSEY

SHOUDN'T THE C.P.S.
SELL SHARES IN
THIS GREAT
COMMODITY

INVEST IN
CORCAN
NOW

WOULD THE ECONOMY
OF THE COUNTRY
COLLAPSE?

AREN'T WE A
GREAT BUNCH
OF MARTYRS





MILLHAVEN COUNT AS OF MARCH 22ND, 1982

STATIC POPULATION	294
ESCAPED, UNCAPTURED	1
OUTSIDE COURT	2
ACTUAL POPULATION COUNT	291
SPECIAL HANDLING UNIT	65
OUTSIDE COURT	1
ACTUAL S.H.U. COUNT	64
GRAND TOTAL	359

Volume 1...

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Odyssey Newsletter

April, 1982

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Odyssey Newsletter Policy

The policy of the Odyssey Newsletter is to bring to the attention of the public what we, the members of the Odyssey Group and other contributing authors, believe to be gross injustices perpetrated by the Canadian Correctional Services, Canada's Justice System and other services related to the correctional field.

The views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the contributing authors with the full support of the Odyssey Group Members. They are not the views of the Canadian Correctional Service, nor are they necessarily those of other prisoners.

The Odyssey Group is a group of long term prisoners who feel that prisons and the justice system in Canada can and must be changed through non-violent means. It is our purpose to do all in our power to bring about these changes.

Public apathy can only be combatted through education. Hopefully, this Newsletter will serve that purpose.

Sincerely yours

The Editor

Note from the Editor

At a recent Odyssey Group meeting one of the subjects discussed was the Odyssey newsletter. It was noted that we have encountered serious pecuniary difficulties with regard to covering the costs for paper, printing and postage expenses. Consequently, we requested a cost estimate from the administration. To our dismay we were informed that the price we are charged for paper and printing is seventy-five cents per issue with an order of four hundred copies. Of course there are additional astronomical postal rates to contend with.

As you may have already deduced, we are compelled to raise our current price of four dollars per annum to seven dollars per annum. Our price has remained at four dollars a year for six issues since the conception of the Odyssey newsletter some years ago. From the feedback we have received, various subscribers have wondered how we could possibly maintain our newsletter at such a minimal fee. Aside from the subscription rate, we receive donations and we also do internal drives in order to acquire a marginal profit and perform a service to the prisoners within. We, the Odyssey Group, sincerely hope our readers can appreciate this new, but essential rate.

In Solidarity,

The Editor

EDITORIAL

Many have expressed alarm in reaction to the brief which has been drafted by the Correctional Service of Canada concerning the participation of visitors in prisons. In my opinion, the c.s.c. is once again over stepping their security mandate, but such action comes as no surprise to regular observers. This draft is yet another attempt by the Administration to gain more control of the system.

In this directive, it is suggested that outside volunteers be subjected to an "orientation" program before they are admitted to a group. Authorities imply that these programs will help to familiarize volunteers with the prison environment in order that they may be better equipped to offer their services to the organization or individual involved.

Such stipulations could serve to effectively discourage some people who wish to participate - perhaps attendance at these indoctrination sessions would take more time than they are able to devote. This is, however, probably the least of their concerns.

Training programs would be administered by agencies or organizations judged "appropriate" by the CSC. Individuals would be subjected to the administration's (and society's) drastically distorted view of prisons and inmates. If these people all promise to espouse the same philosophies and viewpoints as the CSC, they'd be allowed to participate. As well, it seems that those individuals who are not affiliated with an approved volunteer recruiting agency (if they are even considered eligible for participation) will be very closely scrutinized by the administration. Such procedures are not called for; if the primary function of the administration is to maintain security of the institution, we would suggest that the most that is required is a security check whereby the individual's name is run through a computer to make sure they don't have any outstanding

EDITORIAL

charges or previous records. I would suggest that this measure is hardly necessary, but it is an established procedure deemed "necessary" so we can do little to argue this aspect of the would-be directive.

We would suggest that the administration has absolutely no place deciding what "types" of individuals should be allowed to participate as volunteers. As well, they should not attempt to convince people of their own personal views. They have no business advising what should be the purpose of their participation in the group. An individual enters the prison with their own views and ideas about the nature of the system, and about what changes he or she sees as necessary. The volunteer does not need a training session that is presenting the administration's viewpoint. The person's desire to participate is an expression that they are aware of the happenings within institutions, or that if they aren't they would like to find out. The last thing that is needed is more people believing and adopting the "official" philosophy. If this directive is adopted, people will be prevented from criticising and challenging the system, despite the claim they welcome constructive criticism. The policy would increase the administration's power to ban volunteers from the institution. Any one administrator would legitimately be able to judge the suitability of any volunteer; the potential for arbitrary and discretionary decision-making is increased.

As a result, the individuals entering the institution would be those who adhere to the dominant ideology and who are respectable middle and upper class citizens. These individuals would not seriously challenge the nature of the system, and would be satisfied with conservative changes. This is the goal of the directive on volunteers. It is an attempt to silence radical thoughts, and to encourage the participation of only those people who are satisfied with

minor changes. Such, only results in creating the ILLUSION of change. There is no change, only contribution to the ongoing system. People would end up condoning the system; and to condone these outreaching bureaucratic tentacles is to contribute; and to contribute is, of course, to be one of the many cogs within the Bureaucratic Wheel Syndrome.

Since this article was written, there have been several responses to the brief which has been drafted on volunteers participating in prisons. Graham Stewart of the Kingston chapter of John Howard has publicly denounced the directive. A response by the administration has since been printed in the Whig Standard. This response is more of a defense move in the face of such public outcry. Mr. Pinder, deputy commissioner of offender programs, has cautioned that the directive is only in draft form, that there is still work to be done. One would assume, however, that a well-paid government official, equipped with an university degree, would be capable of saying "what they mean", especially after fifteen drafts! It is more likely that the draft meant exactly what it said and that Mr. Pinder's retraction was due to the negative feedback. The feeble cover-up attempt was actually a form of back-peddling as the public did not approve of the brief, which was released as a "testing measure" to monitor the public opinion regarding the matter. The C.P.S. is noted for their diabolical tactics; it is obvious that past masters of subterfuge and camouflage are employed among the C.P.S. ranks. From the prisoner's perspective, this new, would-be directive is as routine as many ridiculous, outrageous directives already in operation; but they seldom touch upon the Public, therefore, the greater part of society is unaware of what is merely "normal procedure" within the confines of your local prison. Any further retractions from the C.P.S. can be deemed as but one of their many contingency plans.

The crux of this article is not so much intended to be an eye-opener as it is a suggestion and indication for concerned people in society to react and nip such overbearing infringements in the bud. Any continuation can have nothing but a snow-ball effect. It is time to develop some political responsibility within the community against such authoritarianism which appears to be rapidly increasing in various government sectors. One has to wonder if cutbacks are the issue or control dominance.

In Solidarity

Bill Solosky

CAMOUFLAGED WAREHOUSE

Everytime I read or hear about prisoners voicing their opinion on one subject or another I almost always hear or read the following statement; "by the local taxpayers" or "It's costing us \$40,000 a year to keep one prisoner in prison."

The people voicing that statement know not of what they speak, for if they were to take the time to get involved somehow in the prison system via various groups that cater to outside guests, they'd understand more.

Prisoners, whether society likes to admit it or not, cause employment. From the Commissioner of Penitentiaries down to the warden to the common gaurd, everyone has to be paid. Thus, without us, many families would be unemployed and some obviously unemployable; I mean let's face reality. It certainly does not take an Einstein to turn a key or push a button.

Plus all the industrial products that leave here daily are done by prisoners at such a ridiculous bargain that the Canadian government receives an awesome overhead.

Contrary to popular belief, steak is still a rare item in prison. (no pun intended!) We have it once a week but I've yet to see top sirloin or T-bone on my tray. Speaking of trays...it's 1982 and the rumours started five years ago about a new dining hall being built. Why they say new dining hall escapes me as we don't have an old dining hall. We still eat in our cells off of a tray or in common-rooms, still off of a tray. I often think that when Millhaven was built someone suggested "why build a dining hall, it only creates more movement and will cost X number of dollars more. Let them eat off of trays." Prince Albert Penitentiary built a dining hall (four in all) in 1972. The P.A. is now for protection inmates. The point is that was ten years ago...before Millhaven was built.

Most prisoners wear the same pair of pants for years, also shoes and slippers. Prisoners coming in now are receiving worn pants upon entry. The policy is that you are allowed new boots, shoes and slippers along with casual clothes once a year. The same boots are used for summer and winter.

Salisbury steak on the menu is in reality, a hamburger patti... ground beef. Choice of beverages and juices amounts to whether you want coffee, tea or milk or all three. The juice comes over in a large milk bottle (steel) and sits in the hallway from breakfast to supper.

Sports equipment is purchased once every fiscal year and it's tough to find a handball or racket, ditto for tennis. Lets be honest, after the weights, tennis nets, concrete walls for handball and ball diamonds are constructed, what's left to purchase? It costs nothing to flood the ground for a skating rink. Hockey is the only sport in winter, with the exception of ping-pong and I'd estimate the ping-pong tables are at least three years old.

Therefore, if you or your husband or wife or friend or even yourself were to take the time to visit Millhaven and talk to the prisoners, perhaps you would understand more. At least you would hear our side of the story. A lot of people used to criticize Richard Nixon until they realized that he didn't do anything any other President didn't do... he just got caught. I'm not complaining or whining. I'm simply pointing out that a simple solution would be to let us all out tomorrow and give us ten-thousand dollars and I'm sure we wouldn't be wasting anymore taxpayers dollars! Of course that wouldn't work as too many parasites would be out of work. So, you see, it's not us you are paying \$40,000 dollars a year to keep--it's the keepers.

And God said "Lower than the body who's kept is his keeper."

R. Camphaug
On behalf of all groups

COSMOS IS OUR SANCTUARY

The Universe,
Permeated with awe,
Stars disperse,
All physical law..

Lex enhances it's demeanor,
Eternal nova,
Infinity is it's entrepreneur,
Pudimentary lava..

A life-form of matter,
Based on an element,
Evolution is the latter,
Acclimatizing to the environment..

Insubordinate category,
Intrinsically innate,
Sustenance is compulsory,
It's implication is to abate..

so systematic,
Executed by logic,
Nations tumble,
And return to rubble..

Complete comprehension,
Mere planets,
Knowledge...thought...cognition,
Mere comets..

Human beings come into existence,
Philosophy is their intellect,
Emotions are the essence,
Which guides them to derelict..

Homo-sapiens stumble,
Through milleniums of trouble,
Metamorphosis into energy,
Contemporary interveners of the galaxy.....

.....

I am dedicating this little bit of work here to a brother whom I love very dearly and had spend time with him in Archambeault Super Max, I mean Fred Jo Murray has been like a brother to me, and this is to you.

I have spent quite a number of years behind bars and thinking about our "great system" we are supposed to have, and the kind of people who make and run the system. Well, my fight has always been for a new change, so decent people like us "cons" as we are named and labelled can live better. And the only way we can make that change is to get others who are like us and think like us, to unite together and fight for a change of the great system we are supposed to have. The only way to do it is to take out your opponent, by a process of "elimination". I don't mean out of this picture temporarily, so his opposition can gather troops together so he can take back what is rightfully ours; I mean to take him out of the picture permanently. Because this "great system" of theirs is slowly killing all our brothers behind bars, and out on the street from release, and I'm speaking of our brothers, black, white & Mexican and Chicano and so on. And to speak truthfully, I have always been for this revolution, and not just for an ordinary revolution, where we pick up the gun and go out and shoot a few people who are nobody important, and after our shooting spree is over we are back to block one again paying dearly for our bad mistake and other mistakes. So, I am speaking about Multi-Cultural Revolution in uniting all the forces together, inside and outside of prison. Once when that is done then we can sit down and talk to all our brothers of different nationalities and put our heads together and plan our strategies; and after we reach a decision and we all have our tasks, then, and only then should we pick up the gun and get out to do our duty. And we serve no other, on pain and torture and the threat of death, from the 'opposition'. We serve none other than the "Revolution", its cause and its functions, for to liberate all our brothers in arms inside and out on the streets and release. I support my brothers who are in Ireland fighting for their Rights and Identity and Dignity in their hunger protest, all those brothers who have died in the hunger protest, are all our brothers also. Those brothers are Just in their beliefs as we should be, because the same that implies there, implies here for us also and other prisons all over the world. When one of

our brothers dies in the "Hunger Strike" in other prisons, it should affect us all and it does. What happens to those brothers, happens to us also, and you must always remember that. Also the person that I'm dedicating this to also happens to be Irish and as I said before, he is a brother. I have stated before that we do have to make a change, because our present way is brainwashing most of us who think the system is great. If you start thinking along those lines you not only become brainwashed but also programmable, so that you are a slave to your master and masters to society in general. Because society plays a great part in brainwashing you so that they can program you in serving them and fulfilling their duties, so that they can report back to their masters that their work is done for today. Society serves the same master and masters that they try and get you to serve. What I'm saying is that they are vegetables and are miserable so they have to have a toy of their own to play with any way they can to make you into a vegetable.

This is where Rehabilitation comes in that they talk about which I and most of us have yet to see. The only signs I see of rehabilitation is when they turn a good man into a vegetable and a puppet so whenever they pull the strings he is supposed to jump up and respond to his masters demands and whims. He is not only brainwashed, but also a puppet and a slave mostly more so to himself for his not being strong enough to fight back. Then programming comes in to make him serve his masters, that where society comes into the picture to make sure that he does, cause if he doesn't respond they have to answer to their masters. After the programming stage, comes to as what we call this vegetable, after the process becomes even easier for them. Then comes rehabilitation and once here, cause you passed all the other tests", you are now a well bonified-brainwashed-programmed puppet-slave, rehabilitated walking vegetable. There are many other things that I can talk about but this is my most important interest. So I say to my brothers and sisters of the same predicament, we are all in this, including myself. Let us all unite for the Right and Proper Revolution.

To the support of the Revolution!

THE GUY IN THE GLASS

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world crowns you king for a day,
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what that guy has to say.

For it isn't your father, mother, or wife
Whose judgement upon you must pass
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the guy staring back from the glass.

He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest
For he's with you right to the end
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the guy in the glass is your friend

You may be like Jack Horner and "chisel a plum"
And think your a wonderful guy
But the man in the glass says you're a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears,
If you've cheated the man in the glass!

Author Unknown.....

RULES

Rules are absolute. Where-ever, or when-ever, two or more people enter into a relationship, whether by choice or forced rules will evolve. No matter whether, the relationship is a closely knit one such as marriage or one where the individuals only have intermittent and distant contact Rules will evolve. Such is the nature of man, in fact not just man, but all species of animal.

We who find ourselves subjected to the rules of the Penitentiary system are here because we choose to ignore the rules of society. What ever the reason, anger, choice, dissatisfaction or feeling oppressed by these rules we choose not to abide by them and in punishment for daring to overstep these rules we are incarcerated, a better word would be exiled to another society, "to wit, prison". Where we do not find freedom, only another set of rules.

The fact is not altered, the rules are still there and the choice is still ours "Abide by the rules or ignore them". Hence Minimum - Medium - Maximum, and now Special Handling Units. All prisons, all enforcing, different types of rules but still rules, rules that for most of the convict population, are obeyed or ignored depending on the situation.

Rules are called by many different names, rules, laws, directives, suggestions or even codes and ethics are all in fact rules. Prisons have their code "The Unwritten Code (Laws) that govern behaviour. These rules although unwritten and loosely defined are surprisingly enough adhered to. Though the con still has the choice to abide by the "code" or ignore it and suffer the consequences. Prince Albert and Kingston are prime examples of the consequences.

Enforced rules will never last and sooner or later through what-ever matter of strife and cost, it will be warded off.

Rules self-imposed, are no less demanding and quite often broken but they are of choice, adaptable and obeyed because of the very fact that those whom live by them choose to do so. Because these rules came about because of a need of protection against a common enemy, they are adhered to not, selectively, but wholly. These rules are obeyed by young, old, rich and poor alike, and without the benefit of a court or a judge for the entire body whom abide by these rules, enforce them. You are judged by your peer groups which is no longer the case in the Canadian Justice System. The average convict is at the opposite end of the social ladder to that of the people who sit in judgement of them. The rules are no longer equal, there, now being a set of rules for the poor and working class and seperate ones for the rich, political and the elite. People will argue this is not so, and taken in one context I would agree. The written rules are in fact the same, but the differences lies in the fact that these rules are in fact that these rules are enforced on the one end of the scale and largely ignored or leniently dealt with at the opposite end.

you may wonder why I dwell on the ideology of rules in this era of 10-25 year indefinite life sentence, special handling units, resulting in not just physical exile, but mental exile as well. The rules enforced have to be changed. The rules these individuals have to live within must become self-imposed rather than the enforced rules they are now subjected to. Rules they will not follow and accept for

obvious reasons, rules they will not just abuse but time and time again will rise in open revolt in an effort to do away with them. This can only result in violence, hostage incidents, murders and sabotage. Regardless of how impossible a change of these rules may seem, men will continue to fight them, it is human nature. In creating systems such as the Special Handling Units. The administration only compounds their already hopeless mistakes with another. The man is there because he will not accept the rules that the administration is trying to force upon him so they add more rules. Those of us inside prison and some with direct knowledge of the system recognize the need for change but most seem not to be capable of coming to a decisive alternative.

A penal community set in one of the totally uninhabited areas that abound in Canada. I have made this statement before and heard arguments of the nature that it was cruel, barbaric, offensive to the sensibilities of those in the ruling position. Why ? For what can be more barbaric then locking a man in a tomb without wife and children and in forcing more rules upon him in hopes of brain washing him into accepting rules he has already found unacceptable. One day can be hell, Multiply it by 9,130 times and see the damage and hopelessness of a 25 year sentence. That 9,130 is the minimum number of days a person enduring this sentence would be required to serve. 9,130 days, one following another, unchanging, the very sameness of the days over a period of time is enough to effect the mental balance of the man. Add to the mental games, the enforced rules, and probability that sooner or later - revolt and further deprivation in special handling units and how much more barbaric can you get?

At least exile to a penal colony allows the individual to once again control his own destiny. There will be rules, but acceptable for their very nature will be understandable. They will live those rules day to day in necessity to survive. If exiled to an area that although inaccessible and desolate is blessed with the natural resources for survival, resources that may be developed and to build on; Man's nature will enable him to not only survive but to grow and prosper and an entire new life style will evolve. Governed loosely by the laws of the land but living in every day instances with in their own self-imposed rules, because as I stated; Rules are undeniable, in any relationship. Each of us has to have rules, except my rules may not be your rules and by being here in prison that much is obvious. And regardless of the time spent here in prison few of us go out of here any more inclined to abide by those rules than when we enter.

Probably the opposite would be true, we are further alienated to our rules. The right to choose self imposed or enforced rules. This does not actually solve the problem but it does relieve the government of the immediate necessity of dealing with it and also the Cost Factor involved. In fact in years to come those they banish will have to face the same problem, and will probably be just as stuck for an answer. For such is the way of man and his movement were controlled by such factors through out history. North America, Australia and British penal colonies. Barbaric but at least offering a better chance of life than 25 years of an 8 by 5 tomb for the living.

The answer to the problem of hostage incidents, violence etc. does lie in units such as SHU. in fact I do not think

An answer will be found within what we now consider the penal system. The alternative, the answers, lie beyond these prison walls, and beyond the concept of modern day incarceration. Maybe the answer is the age old one of exile or maybe there is another alternative yet to be tried or envisioned. The question and problem is not new. Having been with us since the beginning of time but the solution still eludes us since the beginning of time but the solution still eludes us.

The fact that there is such a prison colony in Mexico. Self supporting, built around a family structured lifestyle (man, woman and child) in which inhabitants have adopted and made a place for themselves that they are reluctant to leave at the expiration of their sentence.

In Canada it is feasible, workable and of benefit to all concerned. Although I cannot see restrictions on such a colony for lifers. I would be interested in hearing their comments and views of such an idea. If they had such a choice, what would it be ? Life here or life there !

Barry Ferguson

"The Signifying Monkey"

Down in the jungle where the cocoa-nuts are grown
Lived the signifyingest monkey this world has ever known
Said the signifying monkey to the lion one day
"A big bad sucker just passed this way
And he talked about your Mama in a terrible way!"

Well, the lion got all frantic and all full of rage
Like a young jitter-bug blowing his gage
He took off through the jungle in a hell of a breeze
Knocking all the cocoa-nuts out of the trees.

He spied the elephant under a tree
And said, "Jump little sucker, it's you and me!"
The elephant looked up out of the corner of his eyes
And said, "You better mess with someone your own size!"

Now they fought all that night and half the next day
And the monkey never knew how the lion got away
He came back through the jungle more dead than alive
And that's when the monkey started his signifying jive
He said "Look at you with your nose all red and your eyes all blue.
Some other sucker kicked the hell out of you!
King of the jungle, you son of a bitch?
Why, you're messed up worse than the seven year itch!"

And at night when me and the ol' lady tryin' to get a little bit
Here you come along with that ARROOWW shit
Shut-up you sucker and don't you roar
Or I'll come down and kick your ass some more!"

Well, the monkey got excited, started jumping up and down
His foot missed the branch and his ass hit the ground
Like a bolt of lightning and a flash of heat
The lion was on him with all four feet.

The monkey looked up with tears in his eyes,
Said, "Please Mr. Lion, I apologise!"
The lion said, "Monkey, to kill is a sin.
But if I let you go, you'll be at it again."

So with a cry of pain and a flash of claws
There was a dead monkey's ass in that big Lion's jaws.
Now down in the jungle, on a tombstone is writ,
"This monkey died for his signifying shit!"

Paper Chase

Paper Chase, is the name of a T.V. serial concerning the elusive play on words and figures in the study of law. I feel it is an apt overall definition for the Canadian penal system. I sometime feel that if you were to remove paper and pens from the system it would collapse. "Wishfull thinking?" Every new program implemented in the C.S.C. in recent years has been "on paper" meant to improve prison conditions and the rehabilitativeness of the prisoner. In reality seldom do they operate in the way that they are presented to the public on paper. In fact they are largely a play of words, in the political forum, meant to mislead both prisoner and citizens alike. Hence the term "paper chase."

I would like to touch briefly on some examples of what I mean and a little more extensively on one of the most recent because it should be still fresh enough to recall.

One of the most glaring examples is Mandatory Supervision. A concept, implemented with the ideal of assisting the convict back into the flow of society after his sentence, rather than releasing him rudderless, into the streets. No people, job, or direction to his life. Mandatory Supervisors were supposed to be there to aid him in these matters. But the truth of the matter, Mandatory Supervision, has done the opposite. It, in its self, has become the largest factor of recidivism in the system. It offers no support, only threat. It has proven a total failure, does not resemble in even the smallest way, what it was purported to be, and has only one redeemable factor, it provided a large number of government jobs. Which is only nice for

whom have those jobs, not to those whose tax dollars go to pay for them.

Another example is the new remission system which had the public screaming in outrage at the moddlecoddling of prisoners, "letting them out of prison in half their time." Why this misunderstanding? Because on paper the C.S.C. said that the prisoner would now earn remission at the rate of one day for each day served or approximately 15 days per month. True but they only earn it for days served, which means the prisoner still has to do 2/3 of his sentence at least.

The new system of earned remission simply made it easier to control. The prison official could now take every day of remission where as before statutory remission was given and not removable by disciplinary courts. Again this program is far from what they projected on paper.

Now they have once again implemented another change. This one dealing with Prison Wages. And once again purported to benefit the prisoner, while in fact we are paying more and getting less. From the Inmate Newsletter No, 21981, Published by the Communications Branch, The Correctional Service of Canada, April 1981, Revised 1981. I give you this excerpt in part, "(In reference to the new pay rates) "These pay scales were developed from Statistics Canada data. It was established the average single wage earner spends about 85% of his or her income on, SHELTER, FOOD, CLOTHING, MEDICAL, NEEDS, TAXES FURNISHINGS, EDUCATION AND TRANSPORTATION. The remaining 15% is considered disposable income, and covers CIGARETS, TOBACCO, RECREATION, LITTS, ENTERTAINMENT, PERSONAL CARE, HOBBIES and SAVINGS.

The pay rates (new pay scales) comply with the disposable income of a wage earner receiving the federal minimum wage, which was increased to \$ 3.50 an hour May 1981. The daily disposable income for a wage earner is \$ 3.15, the lowest rate of pay for a working inmate. Cost for shelter, food, medical needs, furnishings, and education are already paid by the Correctional Service. So, as laid out here, and in the even more bias manner in which it was presented through the news media, the public is under the impression that prisoners are now making minimum wage and living high on the hog, all at "tax payers" expense. Well let me kind of lay it out to you from my perspective. I'll start with the 15% which I do see, as it is the easiest to dispose of.

First before I see even this 15%, 25% of this is removed and placed in a compulsory savings account, which, although my money, and a "disposable income," the only way I might use it is with government permission. Another \$4.00 is removed for recreation and Inmate Welfare Fund. Leaving me with \$ 19.62 with which to buy listed as cigarettes, tobacco etc. Cigarettes I pay provincial taxes on. Add to the list presented by the Correctional Services; items such as coffee, sugar, cream, all "food" items on the street but extra in here. Shampoo, soaps, which in a normal household are also included on "grocery lists". Plus stamps and writing material which are a considerable expense and that \$19.62 every two weeks sure as hell don't leave anything for gifts, hobbies or anything else. In fact, I have to do without half the listed articles in order to buy tobacco(not cigarettes). Purchase a T.V., with what? Yet the government says its allowed and the public pictures me sitting back, feet up, relaxing and watching T.V.

Hardly, my rent does not even include a plug outlet, in which to plug a T.V., if I by some miracle could buy one.

Which brings me to the other 85% of this purported wage I'm receiving. Keep in mind I am working with the figures given by the Correctional Service. I personally receive \$ 3.15 a day or \$ 31.50 every two weeks which at 15% means I would receive \$ 105.00 per week. \$ 31.50 I know what happens to. The other \$ 73.50, I can only offer an interpretation on the information given by the Correctional Service.

Shelter, which can be taken for rent payments. I pay rent to live in a house. I mean this literally not as a smart ass slang expression. You will find, what everyone refers to as a "cell" is indeed a toilet. This cell is the size of your average bathroom (3 piece). In it, like normal bathrooms I have a toilet, but without a lid. I have a sink, but without a plug. I have a bed instead of a bathtub and to finish out the decor a desk, chair and two foot square 5 foot high cupboard in place of a vanity and closet. This is what I have to pay rent for. This is where I live, eat, sleep, shit and relax. Furnishings are already mentioned in the decor with also a radio built into the wall, one fluorescent light and no other electrical outlet. The entire furnishing wouldn't bring more than \$ 50.00 in any second hand store and believe me its all used. Medical needs. I have seen the Doctor once by request and hope that I am never in need of any serious medical attention. But I pay. Education, well what can I say, personally I am receiving no formal education, but I pay.

Food, I eat an average of one meal a day but

I pay for at least 3. I have no choice in the preparation or ingredients. But I pay.

So, said the Correctional Service. They imply I receive these things and now that I am receiving a wage based on the minimum wage part of the 85% I do not see goes for these purposes. I don't know the going rate of rent on a three piece bath, but, I think I'm being grossly over-charged. They also include some other uses of the 85% which I don't see and purposes for which I pay, but receive no benefits. Transportation was included in the 85%. I am certainly not travelling anywhere and taxes. Taxes are also included in that 85%. Me a prisoner, by the governments own admission, by the figures presented, say that, I am now paying taxes. As a tax-payer where are the rights that go with it. Where's my vote. I have the right to have some say into how those tax dollars are used. Certainly not aquandered on programs such as Mandatory Supervision. I and every other prisoner in the federal system pay taxes, pay for the right to have a voice in the decision of this country. Not just prison issues but all issues. Like gun legislation. It does not effect me as a criminal, if I am going to be involved in a crime which requires a gun. I will get that gun regardless of legislation, as a citizen they are depriving one of my rights such as sports and protection etc.. The gun laws were inacted to control the citizen, the public, not the criminal. I want the right to influence, by vote, decisions such as this and other such as the constitution, a smoke screen to cover up the budget and economic plight.

I certainly hope my tax dollar is not being spent in building new tougher prisons in a country already over crowded in expensive, useless prisons.

I pay, I should have the rights of every tax payer, I don't!

I don't even receive a T4 slip or rent receipts for tax purposes. I work for the Correctional Services, at \$ 3.50 per/hour. They said it not me. All employers are suppose to supply the employee with a T4 stating their earnings and taxes. Where's mine?

The Correctional Service is my landlord, but where are my rent receipts?

I am now paying for everything but receive only the shaft. The Correctional Service will no doubt shuffle words and juggle figures in order to cover all this if confronted with it, but in reality it will not change. In their data they forgot to mention how many Canadians are actually earning and surviving on the basic wage. Some people such as waiters and waitresses earn \$ 3.50 per hour depend on tips to supplement this basic wage. Other's earning this type of wage are supplemented by partial welfare, low rental housing, etc.. And yet others earning this \$ 3.50/hour have a sideline, probably illegal, to supplement it. And the others, working at the minimum wage well they don't work at it for long, they either get a better paying job, learn to supplement it in one manner or another, or starve! But on paper at least, we prisoners are living off the fat of the land and sitting here trying to decide on what to spend all our surplus cash, which by the way is only some figure on a piece of paper. That's what prison is all about, instead of a person we become a file full of paper, papers, that say we are this, we get that and have no relationship to the person except that the file containing all

these papers is titled 0000 Joe Blow, Welcome to the paper chase. Follow the penal system through their continual series, largely fictional but based loosely on fact.

Barry Ferguson



"Now that you've been rehabilitated, Herbert, we feel it's time you became a useful and productive member of society once again."



"He's on parole...."

Case Management I.P.P.

I.P.P. or Inmate Planning Program, is the new concept in prison rehabilitation. This program is geared for use under a penal system referred to as Living Unit Concept, both of these programs are now fully in use in the Prairie Region including the maximums. Although this statement may not be entirely true in regards to the Saskatchewan Pen (Prince Albert) the I.P.P. was being implemented in P.A. before it was changed to a protective custody unit, although the L.U.C. was not in effect at that time. But the rest of the pens from Bowden, Drumheller, Stoney, to Edmonton Max. all employ both of these programs, L.U.C. and I.P.P.

The why, where, and what of these programs and the reasoning behind them are the questions I will attempt to expose here, I say expose because that is my intent. As we are all aware there are always at least two views of why a change is implemented, theirs and ours (in this instance "mine" for this is my view.)

First we have all been informed as the reasons that have been administrative informants for implementing this new phase. Largely to sum it up, it is a rehabilitative program geared to assist an inmate to better use and awareness of the opportunities available to him in trying to prepare himself for his eventual return to the street (i.e. society). It is to assist the inmate to gain the most productive use and value of the time that the courts so generously allotted him. It is also to allow an inmate some personal input into

the decisions that will effect him during the term of his incarceration.

Ideally the I.P.P. team consists of:

- (a) the inmate
- (b) His Living Unit Officer(Note 1)
- (c) The L.U. (Note 2)
- (d) Head L.U.
- (e) Later date to include Parole Officer

Note 1: I.P.P. is geared to L.U.C. therefore the terms L.U.'s etc. used hereafter. Under the old system it was guards and Classification Officer.

Note 2: Note the use of proprietorship "His" L.U. putting the inmate immediately at a personal level with a man whom although a guard, now is supposed to be friend and confidant.

You have this I.P.P. team coming together to discuss and dissect the whys & wherefores of the inmate's incarceration, "equally" in the hope of understanding the inmate's problem and inability to cope in society. It stands to reason that he "has" to have a problem as he is indeed in prison. So it follows Step 1, find the problem. Step 2 find the solution. Step 3, the cure and the best way of accomplishing this to everyones benefit. The sooner the better from the inmat's stand point, for by entering into this contract he hopes to achieve the earliest possible, realistic release date (by means of parole). To the staff involved, bringing about a change in the inmate that will insure that he returns to society a safe, well adjusted individual, no longer a threat and capable of existing harmoniously in that society. There is no guarantee for anyone involved but this

but this is truer for the inmate for even though he is led to believe that to follow the I.P.P. laid out will eventually bring about release. It only brings about a parole hearing, at which the Board may decide that (a) the program needs more work or added treatment or that (b) the plan was not suited in the first place.

No Guarantee, just a vague statement to instill that belief.

The I.P.P. plan is a contract, and if the inmate fails to live up to the conditions, well Kiss It all good bye, do your time or enter into a new readjusted contract and start again.

Sample - 5 Year Sentence

Inmate: John Doe, drinking during involvement of crime. Is unskilled and unemployed. Fired from last job for having an argument with foreman. He is seperated from his wife and child.

Problem: John Doe is an alcoholic, hostile to authorities and has difficulty accepting responsibility. He has no trade or employment possibilities.

Solution: Remove his alcohol problem, condition him to accept authority and instill responsibility. Teach him a trade (Auto mechanics, welder etc.).

Cure: Booze problem: Attend A.A. 2 times per week. The hostility, responsibility and trade can all be worked upon as an overall problem jointly.

One, he will be given a work placement in

Vocational Welding and take part in a 10 month course to be followed by a further 10 months of practical experience in the Industrial Welding Shop.

Here he will also learn to work under the authority of a shop boss, accepting orders without argument. This should improve his hostility and by continuance instill responsibility. So John Doe, you had better stay in the Welding Shop, no matter what the hassles, don't talk back or react in anger resulting in a charge, attend A.A. religiously and to further improve the overall cure and assist you, you will see your L.U. at least once per week and under go therapy sessions with the Psychologist every 2 weeks. If you fullfill all the above conditions we will be prepared to present and support an application for a Day-Parole before the Board. To be followed by a full parole in approximately 28 months. Might add that if everything is satisfactory and it seems feasible, we are also prepared to support application for T.A.'s after 14 months.

Signed
John Doe

P.S.

And no guarantee, you have to earn it, it's all up to you, This is the situation and the idea involved as purported by the administration to the public, but I contend and although not published or aired to public view, L.U.C. and I.P.P. and all that they entail is a security measure not implemented to assist the inmate, but rather to better control him and his movements. L.U.C. entails closer, day to day contact and supervision. I.P.P. entails more complete information and a continual flow of

it re: progress reports. The results a file so complete, they know that inmate better than a wife knows her husband. They get to know his personality, his mentality, his needs, his desires, they want to know that inmate better than they want to know their own wives. Know him so completely, that they can theoretically place him in any given situation and predict his reactions. Break down all the barriers, everything the inmate wants can only be obtained through the L.U. Phone calls, requests of any nature, hobby or purchases of every kind. This L.U. knows you, your every move, therefore if for some reason there is little difference, some subtle change in behaviour, attitude, your system. Its noticed and reported immediately to the "guard". For the guards are not gone, just removed to the sidelines waiting to step in and remove the inmate at the first hint of something unknown. You heard that commercial only your hairdresser knows for sure, not so in L.U.C., the L.U. knew before your hairdresser cause he made the appointment.

What ever your views as to L.U.C. & I.P.P.. one thing is for certain, they are going to be implemented, the reasons are debatable but the value is obvious from the administrative standpoint.

"Know thy enemy".

Barry Ferguson

Prison Plan Calls for Comas

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (UPI) Senate Republican counsel Philip Weber says prisoners should serve time in two ways: In comas where they pose no danger to society or working in municipal jobs wearing day-glo orange uniforms and shaved heads for identification.

Weber said he's serious about the plan "as a point to start discussion", but most government officials and lawyers scoff.

Under his proposal prisoners would be paroled to municipal governments, where they would be put to work doing menial city jobs.

"The prisoner who walks away can take off his day-glo orange overalls and melt into some sort of anonymity, but he can't grow his hair back," Weber said. "It will provide the public with the notion that these people are being punished. It puts them in a highly visible position in the community. And I'm not saying their numbers should be branded on their foreheads or anything.

"This concept is less offensive than putting someone in the penitentiary for four years and let them sit on idle hands and go stir crazy. It would be some sort of meaningful work."

For violent felons and others who wouldn't fit into Weber's work program, he has another solution-find a "nondegenerative drug" to put them in comas for the duration of their sentences.

"This would isolate dangerous people from the community and it's 10 years out of your life," he said. "I certainly wouldn't want to spend the next ten years in a coma."

Gary Gilmore chose to be shot rather than spend his life in prison. There are a number of prisoners who'd rather go under than live at Stateville."

Response to "Prison Plan Calls for Comas"

After reading Philip Weber's suggestions which are found in the article "Prison Plan Calls for Comas", I would first of all like to suggest that "prisoners" who are serving long or short sentences for so-called violent or non-violent crimes, are already serving time in a coma-state-of-mind. This is a result of letting oneself be programmed to respond like a robot serving its master.

Weber outlines two ways of dealing with the criminal: These two ways are not that different. Whether the individual performs menial tasks for the government or is put into a coma, the end result is virtually the same...conformity!

The purpose of such actions is twofold; to punish the offender and to protect society. From what are they hoping to protect "society" from? Perhaps, it is to protect them from becoming 'comatose'. If that is the goal, I would suggest it is too late. Society has already destroyed good people and they always will. There has been so many good people and prisoners destroyed by "society" that it hurts to think about it.

Now this Philip Weber is a member of society who works for the government and who is supposed to be a man of intellect and intelligence. He is "qualified", which means he has a license to do whatever he chooses with criminals, who are not really criminals at all, but are individuals who got caught in the system and were exploited. Anybody who could think of making prisoners wear special uniforms and shaved heads in order to identify them as "prisoners" who are being punished, is criminal himself! It is criminal to treat a person this way who is already being punished for his or her so-called crime or wrong-doing. Certainly no inmate would think of doing such a thing. The only people who could think of things like that are the real criminals who are not found in prisons.

Just where in the hell do they (society) get off deciding how someone should live or die? I always thought that should be the individual's own choice, but that is apparently not so. When we go as far as to let something like this happen, we (almost) deserve to let them do to us what they want. When this happens, are we all not merely walking around in comas?

It is necessary to examine Weber's second idea concerning the use of nondegenerative drugs for putting dangerous and violent criminals into comas. The suggestion implies that at the end of the sentence, the individual would be given an antidote to free them from their coma state, in order that they return to society to resume normal functions. Is it not somewhat absurd to suggest that anybody, after spending several years in a coma, could function normally within the environment they were released to?

Assume a suitable laboratory could be found, where these non-functioning bodies could be stored for indefinite periods of time; the environment would have to be unique, in order that the bodies would not decompose or rot. Assuming this is possible, let's imagine what happens to a body that remains inactive, not to mention the "mind". First, the body mechanisms slow down to the extent that reflexes and muscle tissue deteriorate from lack of use. The functioning of the heart would slow down and be very weak, as would various other parts of the body. The brain, over a short period of time, would become inoperative and would eventually, due to lack of use and exercise, become useless. The individual, who was at one time a person, would remain a vegetable. Yet this is what is to be released back into society. Those who destroyed him would now be faced with the problem of teaching this person how to function all over again. The person would have to be taught all over again from nursery school to kindergarten and on up. It would take a lot of time and patience to get things working again so that the individual could function normally, to serve society in their criminal ways. Who, may I ask, is willing to take the time to help

someone like this? Certainly not "society" and certainly not the government or the prison system that put him into that coma state in the first place. These three parties would not accept the blame for turning a good man or woman into a zombie!

Philip Weber says that such things are starting to be discussed in 1981! I wonder if such discussions have not started earlier but were just kept secret?

At any rate, this Philip Weber forgot to mention to the public what happens to the people who are subjected to such treatments. There is no consideration for what may happen after an individual is released from a coma.

Well, here is a 'respectable' member of "society", Philip Weber, who puts forward ideas like those in the article "Prison Plan Calls for Comas". Who punishes him for putting forward such CRIMINAL suggestions? Nobody!!! Perhaps it should be left up to those who are incarcerated. Maybe we should be taking out our opponents by a "process of elimination" before we get ourselves into real serious trouble.

Spencer Robinson

WOMAN'S LIB MOTTO

A young couple just married were in their honeymoon suite on their wedding night. As they undressed for bed, the husband, who was a big burly bruiser, tossed his pants to his bride and said, "Here, put these on." She put them on, and the waist was twice the size of her body. "I can't wear your pants!" she said. "That's right!" said the husband, "and don't you forget it! I'm the one who wears the pants in this family!"

With that, she flipped her panties to him and said, "Try these on." He tried them on and found that he could only get them on as far up as his kneecaps. He said, "Hell! I can't get into your pants!" She said, "That's right, and that's the way it's going to be until your goddamn attitude changes!!!"

CRIMINALS TO BE SPACE PIONEERS

TORONTO (CP) Canada's most dangerous criminals-rapists murderers and armed robbers- one day may be space pioneers, predicts one of the country's top criminologists.

Ezzat Fattah, who is working on a scientific paper to support his hypothesis, emphasizes he is not advocating the use of criminal guinea pigs to populate space colonies, simply predicting what "inevitably must come to pass."

Fattah, former head of the department of criminology at Vancouver's Simon Fraser University, believes the society of 2001 will cast out its criminals as Britain and France did in the 1700s.

Fattah said in a telephone interview that the world is entering a period in which conditions mirror those in 18th century Britain and France. Prisons are becoming overcrowded and society has almost reached the tolerance limit in supporting criminals.

"The astronomical costs of supporting these huge penal colonies will force mankind to find other solutions," he said. "And those solutions lie in space, the new frontier, where the dregs of humanity can be sent to develop new colonies and new life."

Fattah said the idea worked in Australia and, to some degree in North America 200 years ago.

"The consent of convicts will be required before they are sent off to space," he said.

"But they will really have no choice, given the options. It will be life, or close to that, in an earth cell or a chance to build a new life in outer space."

"Prisoners to be 2001 Space Canaries?"

I'd just finished reading about a prisoner in the Florida State Penitentiary convicted of killing a cop. Waiting out what he thought were his last days on Death Row, he was finally granted a stay. Hope for humanity yet! And then I read the "hypothesis" Mr. Fattah is supporting in his "scientific paper". So much for optimism...

I sincerely hope the man is merely out to publish something--no matter how preposterous--as a means of gaining some sort of (twisted?) recognition from his colleagues.

No doubt his composition would be entertaining. The attitudes and outlook underlying it, however, are not. There is no consideration of possible causes of the crimes mentioned, there is no wider investigation into other remedies of an ailing criminal justice system.

It's well known that the present costs of running the penitentiary system are atrocious and quite possibly will goad the public and political bodies to seek alternatives. However, the \$30-40,00 allotted for each prisoner each year is primarily used for administrative and "custodial" tasks - seems society is not supporting criminals as much as an immense and ineffective penal bureaucracy.

But if federal funds now poured into prisons are excessive what would be the price expertise, materials and supplies, required for even a fledgling "space colony"? Does he expect us to believe these would be wholeheartedly expended on behalf of the "dregs of humanity" - if not to serve some other purpose?

Mr. Fattah could consider possible social causes of crime and suggest measures to prevent people from going to jail. He could look into reducing the number of men and women confined since only a minority are serving time for violent offences. Why couldn't community based programs be expanded?

It's true that there is no absolute prevention but surely action along these lines holds more promise than what Mr. Fattah is proposing.

Still, he is convinced (or trying to convince his audience) that because conditions in the world today reflect those of 18th century Britain and France we should oblige history and mimic the penal customs of two-hundred-plus years ago.

Fattah's rationale is that trouble makers of a certain ilk were kicked out of the country then and they made a new life for themselves so there's no reason why the ones today can't. This implies that the environment that the twenty-first century outcast would be plunged into resembles that of his eighteenth century counterpart. But are they? It is reasonable to compare the fields and forests, rivers and lakes, animal life and diverse societies which made up North America and the Canadian continent at the time, with the scattered atoms, molecules of gas and radiation of outer space?

Certainly survival was no simple task for native people or the new "pioneers" but at least that had resources at hand to work with. It doesn't take a university degree to figure out that it would take very complex structures and ongoing contact this planet to create and sustain a "space colony".

And what of the families and friends of these prisoners? Would we, too, have the "option" of joining loved ones in the "new frontier" if we ever wished to see them again? What else could Mr. Fattah's vision entail of if he foresees "new colonies and new life" when the vast majority of people convicted of rape, robbery and murder, are men? And then the authorities always claim they try and help families stay together, so I guess they'd go along with the idea.

Mr Fattah's logic continues to elude me. If he is truly concerned with protecting society from its most threatening and destructive elements, why is there no mention of, for instance, industrial polluters and the unbridled contamination of land, air and water, the very things needed to support

any kind of life at all on this planet, whose collective damage is of incomparably greater consequence than that of the isolated acts Fattah points his finger at. What of governments gearing up for nuclear warfare?

The arguments Mr. Fattah puts forth to defend his "hypothesis" are feeble, at best.. I believe he is advocating the very thing he denies- that people convicted of certain offences should be used as guinea pigs in experimental space communities.

Prisoners have been used as subjects for testing drugs by various pharmaceutical companies, various psychological "therapies" by universities and it is not suprising that one of Canada's top criminologists and former Head of the Department at Simon Fraser university is paving the way for the acceptance of more abuse. At least he admits that the "consent of convicts" is synonymous with "no choice, given the options". Life, or close to it, in an 8 by 10 foot cell, or a one way ticket on a rocket.

About the only thing Mr. Ezzat Fattah should be commended for is his measureless gall in asserting that he is merely predicting "what inevitably must come to pass". His proposition is quite avoidable and there are economical, useful and much more human measures possible.

Joyce McNeill

THE HELPING HAND

The paths of Life is lined with thorns
For all who go astray
But in the straight and narrow path
You'll find a rose along the way
But as you pass through Life my friend
Just help your Brother on his way
And in that helping hand you'll find
You'll add one more rose to your Bouquet.....

DANCE OF LOVE

The whole stage explodes in starlight Splendor
As her Entrance breaks the silence
A dancing Princess fair and tender
She bares her form with bold defiance
With artfull Grace her style blends
In harmony with a Love song
And magically a spell she sends
That enraptures the passive throng
In daring Swan like moves to please
Then she proudly flaunts what was hidden
Always with Delicate charm to tease
She makes what was scorned forgivin

THE JACK RABBIT

Love is like a Jack Rabbit
Which leaps about the rough
The time in which you encounter him
Is never ever the time enough...

For his beauty is in his self-expression
Found only within his freedom
For the way he is and what he does
And the way in which you see him...

For his direction is any old way at all
As he has no limitations
For which he goes and what he finds
He always regards as Destination...

So forever enjoy the time in which you've shared
As you've met circumstance
And always recall the beauty found therein
Should ever we meet again by chance.....

TOMORROW

Let yesterday be forgotten
And always look forward to today
Live for what you have now
Let no one block your way

Live each day as it comes
Take everything in stride
Use your Heart and conscience
And let them be your only guide

Always listen to your inner voice
Let no one ever change your mind
For to-morrow is a brand new day
And happiness you will find.....

LOVE SO DEAR

Accepting people for what they are
With Holy Guidance for their mistakes
With your Love and understanding shown
A much stronger Love you'll make..

Trying hard to last through all time
Through flaws and errors arise
Always together Helping each other along
True Love shall never hide..

LOVE SO DEAR Cont.

Happyness and True Love forever remain
Through toil, pain and fear
It's up to us the path we choose
To keep our Love so Dear...

DON'T GO

There's something you have to tell me
That something I ought to know
You say that you don't Love me
And that I ought to let you go..

I'm sorry because I really can't do that
It would be against my will you see
There's a great big space in my heart
Only you can fill..

Maybe you should think it out
Before you make up your mind
And for making hasty decissions
You're really not that kind..

Now you see there's something I have to tell you
Something that you ought to know
I don't ever think that I could live with myself
If you should ever go...

THE CREATOR

Did you know that the Lord above
Created you for me to Love
He picked you out from all the rest
Because he knew I'd Love you Best..

Once I had a Heart and it was True
But now it's gone from me to you
So take care of it as I have done
For now you have Two and I have none..

If I get to Heaven before your there
I'll carve your name in the golden stairs
If you're not there by Judgement Day
I'll know you've gone the other way..

And just to show the Angels there
What you really mean to me
I'll give them back their golden harps and everything
And just to show you what you really mean to me
"I'll even go to Hell for Thee"....

A CHANGE OF SYSTEMS:
SOME SOLUTIONS TO CHANGE

I would like to start from the beginning, reasons for why most of us end up in prison or some likely place. I'm speaking of lower class families that live in the ghettos or slums, and that most of the families are on welfare or some other government subsidized plan. First of all, families that are living in this situation, do not have a choice as to how they will live. First it has to do with their lack of education, the schools that they have in the near community that they live in do not teach their pupils what they are rightly supposed to know.

Most of the poor people who live in this area don't have much of an idea of how much education they are getting, they are getting only rudimentary education, specially if your family and other families happen to be on welfare. If so, you cannot get the propper education that you and others rightly deserve.

I ask the question: Does that mean that a family or families that are not on welfare or other government plans have a better chance ? No, and yes. I will answer both of these questions. First, if a family or families, are not on welfare, and the parent or parents are both working, possibly the family or families might have a good chance of getting a better education. Second, it has a lot to do with his environment that one lives in. The environment plays a major part in ones life and education. If you are living in the ghetto or slums you can only get a rudimentary education. Suppose you are still living in this particular kind of environment and you finished elementary, and second-

ary school, and you go to High School, out of a percentage out of a hundred percent you will have 40 percent of the people who will make it, while the other 60 percent will remain in the ghetto or slums, not so good if you look at it critically. First of all you have to have white teachers to come to this area to teach, they are paid by the government but they do not live in the same areas. Well, if it is a black ghetto or chicano, or Puerto-Rican or Mexican, you cannot have any of these people that I have just mentioned to come in and teach. Because they do not have the education to teach, and the ones that do have the education are a very small percentage of them. That is why you have to have white teachers come in to give the people the education because they are qualified to teach. To make it you have to get out of the slums. You have to make it to a white man's world for he runs the world at the moment. If you get to finish High School, it would be better to go to University and continue your education.

Now I am going to speak of work: Most of the poor paying jobs such as minimum wage is in most of your ghettos and slums. Now if you did not finish your education, this is the type of job that you will be forced to take. In this fast and moving world there is very little time for on the job training if you have no education to back it up.

Now I am going to speak on the subject of Prisons: I as a Con do not believe that putting a person in prison and building more is the solution. Prisons do not lower the crime rate. Keeping prisoners behind bars is not the answer. There are better means than putting people in bad situations. One solution is to help and educate the young because our

young someday will have a chance to live a better life. Hopefully a crime free life. The Government refuses to give us the proper education because we could be just as capable of running matters as government does. First of all I know that the government is corrupt, they deal in every kind of field known, including kidnapping, extortion, treason, and conspiracy, and even murder, but you hardly ever hear about it. Think about the Watergate scandal. Or the white collar crimes and the blue collar crimes that you hardly ever hear about. Our greatest importance is to educate the young. They must have the chance to get out of the predicament that they are in. Once when our children's children can get into the fields of science and politics without becoming corrupt or taking bribes and so on, then we can start laying some plans. We do need a government because people before us have put them there, and by the looks of it, they are there to stay. If we have the right people in there to stay and work for the benefit of man, we will have accomplished something.

Secondly we should work to help our children to become teachers so that they can teach our young the proper education. Our children should not have to work all their lives in a factory or a warehouse or an office just to barely get by. Our children should go into businesses of their own or with an associate they can trust, our children should also become lawyers so that they can fight and protect their interest. Because the government tends to want a percentage out of any business and the ones that know best are the ones that are getting robbed by the government and politicians and lawyers.

Third is the question of prisons: At the present state

of the laws today there is never going to be such a thing as No crime, because you know already that there will still be crime and crimes in progress. If you were to put a solution or an idea to a free enterprise or so called, free enterprise that is not government organization, an enterprise that is not run or sponsored by a government, that has the proper teachers and lawyers who are not politically minded in the government aspect, These people would know what to teach us Cons and our children and our children's children. If you lay down certain rules how the enterprise is to be run and certain Laws are set it would work for the rehabilitation and the education of those in great need. Living in an archaic prison and being subjected to an obsolete educational system is not the answer.

Fourth is one other solution to our problem: We should extend out education to the military, not on any government basis such as fight and protect your country which is again another deception. You end up sending yourself and your children to go and fight for your country, so you can go and die of honour for your beloved country, because the government does not give a sweet damn about you. Their interests lie in their wealth, power and their vast land holdings. When you have a government you have corruption and when you have corruption you have criminals, and when you have power, you have greed, and greed is the key to this criminal corruption. Education in the military field should be a voluntary thing for your own benefit and for your childrens. Brothers that were forced to go to war in Viet Nam thought that they were fighting for their country. The government and society told them that they were fighting

for their country, and the people brainwashed them into thinking that they were really serving their country. Those brothers that were black and white actually believed it and they went over to Viet Nam with that belief; and when they got orders to blow up a village and its inhabitants, and they got there, and saw a bunch of woman and children, they were ordered to kill them. And if they refused they were shot on the spot from the Commanding Officer. They had to live in terror for many years, and when they came home and stepped off of the airplane they all thought they would be welcome and that the nightmare would be over. Well, they were all wrong and when they stepped off the plane, everyone who greeted them called them Murderers and baby killers. They left one nightmare and came back to another. Why bother to fight over seas in a war that has nothing to do with us.

So when I say speak of the military, I strictly mean for education, teaching, and experience, to hell with duty and honour to your country; because the government and country do not give a sweet damn about you one bit; the government is merely interested only in it's own Advancement..

---Spencer Robinson.

WHO AM I ?

One score and two has been my life,
And much of that was spent in strife.
Now I am at the point I cry,
Who am I? Who am I?

I've spent my life in semi-joy
But 'twas a front, a silly ploy.
Now I see, I realise,
The life I've lived has been a lie.

I live my life alone in the crowd,
No one hears me tho' I cry out loud.
I seek to help but no one cares,
I wish someone their life would share.

I'm all locked up, I'm in a jail,
I live my life in gloom and hail.
I have no kin, I have no kith,
Now this I ask, do I exist?

I sit in my cell with my memories,
Wishing to fly 'cross the starry seas.
I close my eyes, begin to cry,
I want to die! I want to die!

I remember my family, but not very well,
The memories are old, naught left but the shell.
I lean on the wall, and I wonder out loud,
Does anyone care? Or are they too proud?

Will I be missed when I die?
When I sleep forever, will anyone cry?
The day will come, I'll leave this world.
And none will mourn, not even I....

Jan/5/82
Dan Fannon

WHEN WE DO RIGHT - NO ONE REMEMBERS -

WHEN WE DO WRONG - NO ONE FORGETS. by Garry Skinner

When I last appeared before the Transfer Board I was told that prisoners serving (25 yrs. on life) must now spend 3-5 yrs. here at Millhaven before being considered for a transfer to a medium - unless it's an extraordinary case - having had absolutely No charge since July 1979 - I wonder just what these extraordinary cases really mean - and what sense does it make using the 3-5 yrs. before consideration for transfers. I suppose that the powers that be figure after 3-5 yrs. in Maximum, the man will no longer be a high security risk - when in actuality anyone knows, any length of time in a Maximum Inst. only takes away any degree of rationality and emotions other than resentment, bitterness and hate. When ones family and friends are discouraged to enter Millhaven or any Max. Inst. because of Security hassels, visitors are subjected to. After a few years ones family and loved ones in the majority of other men I see doing this insane sentence are reduced to memories - and a visiting room that can only accomodate 11 open area visitors in a prison population of at present is 278 men speaks further for the extreme lack of facilities that further prevent close family relationships - a policy that Ottawa says they try to ensure close family ties - does a visiting area capable of accomadating only 11 prisoners at a time lend any credability to the C.S.C. facade of promoting close family ties. The answer to that screams out it's deception.

And what other than Family and loved ones does anyone

serving any sentence exceeding even 5 yrs. never mind Life from 10 - 25 yrs, have to keep in touch with reality - when relationships from beloved ones on the outside begin to deteriorate so does ones desire to change. The thought that no one cares turns the best men into products of an archaic system. There was outrage expressed at visiting conditions in the movie "Midnight Express", in reality many prisoners families travel hundreds or thousands of miles and when they arrive must be subjected to visits behind glass partitions because there is no space available in the open visiting area. The public is lead to believe things are so much different and better in Canadian Prisons than other co called barbaric countries. That is because the Public relations spokesman for C.S.C. are so proficient at spreading propaganda

A big deal is supposed to be how pampered we are because of colour T.V.s. What they fail to tell the public is over 250 men had to work 2 years to purchase these colour sets.

Also, there are only 10 colour sets for over 250 prisoners to watch in common rooms only - which will not hold more than 20 men at most at any time unless we are packed together like sardines. I realize I've run from one topic to another without any degree of rhyme or reason. Forgive me I'm no literary genius - merely a product of these Maximum Sec. Inst's and this proves I believe what happens to a man living under the gun - where paranoia, lack of trust, humanitarianism are virtually none existent. Does anyone care though. Other than us, of us who exists under this so called system - to quote -----

TO DO NOTHING IS TO PERMIT EVERYTHING

DISCOMBOBULATED

I've been so lonely since I've been away and had trouble getting to sleep.

All that's on my mind is the love I left behind.

I don't know if I can make it alone, so be there for me baby,
Come sunup or sundown , "I'll be there for you".

The secret for survival is devided by two, three words so strong,
two hearts that keep us close.

If you believe it take my hand, I'll take your heart.

Now I got you and it's going to last cause your making me believe it too. .

Guess what dear? I'm so happy that your mine.

Honey, little things that I should of said I just never took the time.

But you were always on my mind.

Lasting impressions that no one could take away.

When you wrapped your arms around me I never knew what love was all about.

You let me fall in love, don't ever let me out.

Every sign of your love is written down in my heart.

Baby, what I feel inside me, I'm just learning how to show..

When a man loves a woman as I love you, can't keep my mind on nothing else.

Trying to hold onto your kind of loving.

While the years drift by us as we know they can, where do we go from here ?

Looking out from my lonely cell, day after day,

Though my time will come around, it doesn't matter what they say!

All my troubles sre in the past.I'm telling you right away,

I'll be staying for many a day.. Andy Ferguson... (59)

...SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Bernadette, you gave me something I can hang onto,
No one else can have the part of me I gave to you.
I don't want my feelings restrained and loving you is the
right thing to do, you'll always be mine.

Honey, you have your own special ways, there is no one like
you and nothing in this world can come between us..

I've had some bad times, lived through some sad times,
But when you love someone that isn't too demanding,
We forgive and forget, hell is for children!

I can't stop the sun from shining, but know tomorrow that
the sun will shine for us.

I'll be back on my feet again..

Sweet Yesterday! Years can't take away our sweet yesterday.
Feelings, that tomorrow can't bring.

I can't wait for the night with you, it's too long since
we've been apart.

Though I still feel your touch and imagine the things we do.
Your high above me and I'm always falling down.
But someday when it's over, I'll fall no more.
So hold on, don't be sad!.

You are real in a world of fake baby,
Ours is a love that money can't buy,
Only the best is barely good enough for you.

I love you.

By:

Andy Ferguson.

THE UNNATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The experience of prison is not only unnatural, for the purposes that it is intended to accomplish, it is self defeating to its objective which is supposed to be rehabilitation.

Now, I have said prison's prime objective is supposed to be rehabilitation. Certainly prison does serve other purposes, such as protecting society from violent men. However, I believe most penologists strive for the objective of rehabilitation. This, of course, is due to the fact that most prisoners will be released to society eventually even when they get incarcerated for serious violent crimes. So it is self evident that rehabilitation should be the priority for the purpose of prison sentences.

When men are ostracized from society and placed in an atmosphere with individuals who are more or less saddled with the same type of problems, this situation is compounded to the detriment of all goals of rehabilitation. It corresponds to placement of terminally ill cancer patients in a ward or hospital when there is no help for them.

How can society hope or expect that these people who have been ostracized from society by incarceration can possibly come out as better citizens. I believe the prison system that is presently in operation in the U.S.A. and Canada are a cancerous blight on society. Hence, when the men are released after being exposed to this environment, society can't expect must warmth. Genuine feeling toward itself of having accomplished its prime objective of rehabilitation.

You ask: "What is the solution to the problem of rehabilitation?" I believe myself that education of the public to the problem would be an initial step forward. It is a known fact that the outlay of capital to finance the operations of institutions isn't earning any dividends for the prisoner being released. The cost of operations isn't justified for the results of rehabilitating the prisoner have been a complete failure in the majority of

cases of men being released from prison.

Most prisoners who have been convicted of violent crimes are not experiencing their first period of incarceration. The person who is convicted of a violent crime is usually experienced in the unnatural environment and he has progressed from property crimes of an unviolent nature to the state of mind where he is committing violent crimes. I believe this cycle of going from a non-violent offender to a violent offender is a result of his being exposed to this hostile unnatural environment.

The fiscal expenditures could be utilized for a much better system for the rehabilitation of first offenders and people convicted of non-violent crimes.

I would advocate the establishing of prison committees where a section of a city would be where the prisoners would reside with his family, wife and children, etc. Thus this would create a more natural environment to help facilitate his rehabilitation. The inmates of these communities would attend regular schools, universities to give them the necessary skills to become a self-sufficient productive member of society. At the same time they would be receiving guidance and counselling to aid them in their reintegration of a normal community.

I not only believe that this would be a more humane method of treating non-violent offenders, but that taxpayers would receive far better results for their money of having a better citizen released into their community.

I think this is an important step toward the reform of our present penal system and institutions.

---Alton McCorquodale

"Damon's Song"

Damon's just a little whip
But God it makes a matter
Not to hear his little feet
going pitter-patter...

Damon's time was early morn
and cartoons on T.V.
But just to watch his smilin' face
was always worth the fee...

"Lloyd", he'd say, with a frowning look
when I told him time for school
then he'd run his little games
and make me feel a fool...

Sometimes he'd ask a question
with just a tiny nod
And with a grin from ear to ear
he'd ask me "Who is God?"

Other times he'd allow a break
as he looked me in the eye
...then he'd ask too seriously
"Why people gotta cry?"

"Damon", I'd say, just as calm as ice
"You gotta learn to learn
So brush your teeth and comb your hair
and quit talkin' outa' turn"...

But everytime I dodged him
he'd stare and quietly sit
And figure out another way
to outwit and older wit...

But best of all at bedtimes
when we had our raps
I'd have to stay so wide awake
to elude his little traps...

And as he'd slowly tucker-out
and quietly fall asleep
I knew for sure at five years old
he was awful deep...

And as I turned for one last look
before I left his room
I knew for sure tomorrow
couldn't come too soon...

"Your Voice"

for the first time in months
I heard your voice
But somehow
your voice was riveting
the shackles that were
snarling 'round my legs
and somehow your voice was
woven into the handcuffs
that kept my arms pinned
to my sides
and
as I was pushed and pulled
through still another door
your voice
rolled down my cheek
and splashed against
some silent concrete
that was waiting
for both of us...

...Lloyd Moffat...

"The Corner"

by Lloyd Moffat

The Corner is a hustle
just like cheap popcorn
with theatres and sleazy dives
selling mostly porn...

Almost always down the block
which is never very clean
are hookers, pimps and junkies
and a swishy old drag queen...

The shops are filled with questions
of some gaudy, jaded song
by a lonely passer-by
who left his rings too long...

And the winos by the dozen
poured against some door
wake again at daybreak
like some burned-out whore...

Yeah, the Corner is a hustle
But the Corner's anywhere
So before you take a stroll through it
Be careful of the dare...

"Prison"

The face of my grey lady
casts shadows from her womb
while she locks me in her bitter love
and holds me in her tomb...

Her icy fingers trace silhouettes
up and down my spine
and I've seen stronger men than me
lose their diamonds in her wine...

She stalks a river bottom
and she haunts a prairie town
while she take the hopes of men like me
to weave another gown...

"Echos"

last night

I paced the floor
and softly apologized
in case the crushing agony
of my footsteps
disturbed your sleep
But
somehow I knew
you weren't sleeping
and I wonder
if that echo I hear
is not your apology
for pacing
too loudly...

Poems by Lloyd Moffat

"The Fraser River"

a rusty sanctuary
published by
obituary columns
and
starving salmon...

"Stanley Park"

nature kissed and twice removed
whales
practice bhv. mod.
on the crowd
while vacant eyes
under dairy-whipped hats
stare at
little red monkey-peckers
and the jogger spits
mercy
over his shoulder freely
as the sea-wall
runs another mile 'round Stanley Park...

INVITATION

THE ODYSSEY NEWSLETTER

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION

Would be pleased to receive articles
for publication.

LUNACY

Strange Wisdom
Spoken in infancy
Framed to capture
Mind's Freedom
In the dogmatism
Of yesterday.

The verse is lousy, but it explains the need for Canada's prisons. Some moron thought it was a good idea over a hundred years ago. He probably owned a stone quarry or had an idiot son needing a job. Lots of idiot sons have been given jobs since then.

Maybe it's all a middle class plot. They have an awful lot of excess offspring this elitist economy has no room for. After each social science semester ends, someone comes up with another brilliant scheme for rehabilitation and "zingo" they're all hired. They get the rehabilitation and we get the prison.

How ungrateful! The rehabilitation is probably there, I just haven't been able to find it. Never sober long enough I guess. Better to be the joint drunk than the joint nothing. Nobody likes a nonentity.

It's like asking questions of people who wouldn't know the truth if you could jam it down the barrel of a forty-five and blow their fool heads off with it. There are no truths. Just ideas that never work. Just time standing still while dreams are slowly eroded away leaving lifeless zombies in their wake.

Like slapstick comedy. A few pies are thrown, the audience laughs, and the curtain comes down. The mess gets cleaned up later. Only the curtain never comes down on prison and there's no-one to clean up the mess.

Kind of crazy. It's supposed to be. No sane State would

turn a cottage industry that didn't produce anything but misery into a major industrial complex in a few short years like Canada did with its prison system. Like the made to order movie monsters, it feeds and grows on its victims.

And there is no end. Everyone coming into the system is put on a lifetime trip. With Mandatory Supervision, the Parole Board now revokes more paroles than it grants. A clemency board has become a secret police force. A secret police force with more power than the KGB. No matter how bogus, people eventually get a trial in the Soviet Union.

The government, in all its wisdom, is going to give them much more power in the near future. Fifty-six more prisons of their very own. They call them half-way houses. As though there were degrees to being a prisoner. You either are or you're not. There are no degrees. No half-way. Just room for over six hundred more prisoners.

Canada really doesn't need any more prisoners. It has too many now and as long as the Parole Board exists, it will keep getting more. Contrary to what people might think, the Parole Board hasn't meant prisoners do less time in prison. They do much more time. It has also meant that judges send far more people to prison.

Prison abolitionists would do well to stop concentrating on prisons and work toward the abolition of the Parole Board. It has been responsible for every expansion within the prison system for over twenty years and will continue to cause expansion until it is eliminated.

Abolish the Parole Board and you will abolish at least half of the prison force. There should be only one statistic to determine its worth. The recidivism rate. It hasn't changed since the Parole Board was created.

It Failed. Get rid of it.

by Tommy Smith

"TOUGH GUY"

Hey screw, open the window
I still do some breathing you know
I'm waiting to get fried in the hot seat
And I want lots of fresh air when I go!

Outside there are roses and sunshine
But I'll never see them again
Hey! What time is it, after nine-thirty?
Hell, they're going to burn me at ten!

What's that, am I sorry I done it?
No use in regretting it now
A hell of a time to feel sorry...
They're waiting to burn me...and how!

I only croaked a copper
Should I feel bad about that?
I wouldn't have rubbed him so-help-me
If he hadn't of went for his gat!

You see, we were blowing a 'peter'
And I was the look-out or 'stall'
All ready to give them the 'office'
If there was any rumble at all

But just as the nitro exploded
This flat-foot came pounding his beat
He couldn't help hearing the racket
And there wasn't no time for retreat

So I told him to reach for the planets
But instead he reached for his rod
He wanted to be a big hero
So I put him under the sod

What am I, a chump or a sucker...
Should I let him fill me full of lead?
He wanted our names in the paper
With ME as the one that was dead!

So lay off that stuff 'bout repentin',
I ain't gonna shed any tears
You heard what I just told the chaplain
That sob-stuff just tickles my ears.

And I want you to tell them reporters
How tough I was right 'till the end
Maybe they'll put that in the papers
Just tell them I'm hard, will you friend ?

What's that? are they comin' to get me?
Well, step back and give me some air!
My legs seem to be turning to water
How far down is that 'lectric chair?

Here, help me! I guess I can't make it,
There's no one to bid me 'goodby'.
Hey, Warden! Let's wait t'll tomorrow
I ain't ready to die !!!!!

Our modern day approach to crime is an almost pagan approach. The mechanical amputation of the diseased limb for the protection of society. Lock the criminal up for as long as possible (or kill him), throw some books in his cell, teach him a trade, and call it reform. Right? Wrong! All this business of sentencing people to longer periods of time and teaching them skills and dangling carrots before their eyes (commonly known as parole), dose not reform people-or rather criminals-and more to the point, dose not deter them from committing crimes.

On the contrary, this mechanical punishment, this carrot dangling and all the force-feeding pacification, only hardens a criminal. And even when a dangerous member is cut off, and put away far out of sight, immediately another criminal (as statistics show) will appear in his place. It turns out, consequently, that society is not really protected by this method, because the number of crimes dose not diminish.

To further complicate matters, society cuts off the convicted criminal as a matter of course because it is stanger than he, and accompanies its ostracism of him with unvieled dislike, if not with actual hatred. Then it shows no sincere interest what ever in the further fate of that human being, and soon forgets all about him.

And as all this takes place, there is no one to take pity on the condemned man, with the possible exception of a card shuffling, paint by numbers, impersonal bureascratic parole system. In the final analysis, the convicted criminal finds himself excommunicated, as it were, from society, and as a result, either rebels or sinks into deep despair. How he ends is left to the imagination of the reader. Suffice to say, either despair or rebellion more often than not end in tragedy.

If anything can protect society in our times, if anything can reform the criminal and make a new man out of him. There is only one real punishment, the only effective one that people fear and can bring peace, and that is an awareness of ones own conscience. It is only after a man has recognized his

own guilt that he will become conscious of his guilt toward society.

And now comes the questions: Is society worthy of that guilty conscience? Should not society also recognize its guilt toward the individual, the criminal, who is, after all a product; and more pointedly, a victim of society? Our leaders of course. And after all is said and done, How much does anyone really care?

-Brian W. Bush

One day about a month ago, Pierre E. Trudeau was looking for a call girl. He found three in a lounge---a blonde, a brunette and a redhead. To the blonde he said, " I am the Prime Minister of Canada, how much will it cost to spend some time with you? " she replied, " \$200.

The brunette when asked the same question replied - \$100.00 He approached the redhead with the same proposition and her reply was: "Mr. Prime Minister, if you can raise my skirt as high as the taxes, get my panties as low as my wages, get that thing of yours as hard as the times, keep it as high as the gas prices, keep me warmer than my apartment, and screw me the way you do the public, then beleive me, Mr. Prime Minister, it isn't going to cost you a damn cent.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

THE FIGHTER

I FIGHT A BATTLE EVERYDAY
AGAINST DISCOURAGEMENT AND FEAR,
SOME FOE STANDS ALWAYS IN MY WAY,
THE PATH AHEAD IS NEVER CLEAR!

I MUST FOREVER BE ON GUARD
AGAINST THE DOUBTS THAT SKULK ALONG.
I GET AHEAD BY FIGHTING HARD,
BUT FIGHTING KEEPS MY SPIRIT STRONG.

I HEAR THE CROAKING OF DESPAIR,
THE HARD PREDICTIONS OF THE WEAK,
I FIND MYSELF PURSUED BY CARE,
NO MATTER WHAT THE END I SEEK.

MY VICTORIES ARE SMALL AND FEW,
IT MATTERS NOT HOW HARD I STRIVE,
EACH DAY THE FIGHT BEGINS ANEW,
BUT FIGHTING KEEPS MY HOPES ALIVE.

MY DREAMS ARE SPOILED BY CIRCUMSTANCE,
MY PLANS ARE WRECKED BY FATE OR LUCK,
SOME HOUR, PERHAPS, WILL BRING MY CHANCE,
BUT THAT GREAT HOUR HAS NEVER STRUCK.

MY PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW AND HARD,
I'VE HAD TO CLIMB AND CRAWL AND SWIM,
FIGHTING FOR EVERY STUBBORN YARD
BUT I KEPT IN FIGHTING TRIM!

I HAVE TO FIGHT MY DOUBTS AWAY
AND BE ON GUARD AGAINST MY FEARS,
THE FEEBLE CROAKINGS OF DISMAY
HAS BEEN FAMILIAR THROUGH THE YEARS.

MY DEAREST PLANS KEEP GOING WRONG
EVENTS COMBINE TO THWART MY WILL,
BUT FIGHTING KEEPS MY SPIRIT STRONG,
AND I AM UNDEAFEATED STILL!!!

S.E. KISER

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